

The Americans with Disabilities Act has changed our society in these past 15 years. However, as with most civil rights issues, there is still so much more progress to be made. We must remember the vision of Justin Dart and listen to the message of Marca Bristo. While we take time to celebrate today's anniversary, we must never be content until the promise of the Americans with Disabilities Act becomes reality so that every person is guaranteed "equality of opportunity, economic self-sufficiency, inclusion and independence."

A TRIBUTE TO DR. EDMOND F.
RITTER

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a distinguished academic surgeon, Edmond F. Ritter. It is an honor to represent Dr. Ritter in the House of Representatives and it behooves us to pay tribute to this outstanding leader in American Medicine.

Dr. Ritter received his Medical degree from Washington University in St. Louis, where he completed General Surgical Training. Dr. Ritter then underwent Plastic and Reconstructive Surgical Training at the University of California San Francisco. After completing his training, he was appointed to the faculty at Duke University Medical Center. He was later named, "The Duke Distinguished Physician," in recognition of his contributions to the institution and patient care.

Dr. Ritter is an influential member of the medical community. As a gifted surgeon with special expertise in reconstructive microsurgery, he is able to provide skilled, state-of-the-art care to patients with difficult problems. In particular, his results for patients with cancers of the head, breast, and neck are unsurpassed.

Dr. Ritter has had an integral role in the training and mentorship of over 30 young plastic and reconstructive surgeons. Many of these aspiring surgeons have accepted academic positions and have become leaders in their communities.

Currently, Dr. Ritter is an Associate Professor at the Medical College of Georgia. In addition to making multiple contributions to the surgical literature, he is leading an investigation of Tumor and Adult Stem cell interactions in order to advance our understanding of tumor biology.

As a result, Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is incumbent upon this body to recognize the accomplishments of Dr. Edmond Ritter for sharing his talents and services to improve the medical, physical, and emotional well-being of those in need.

A TRIBUTE TO REAR ADMIRAL
ANTHONY W. LINGERICH,
UNITED STATES NAVY

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Rear Admiral Anthony W.

Lengerich, United States Navy, who is retiring after more than 34 years of faithful service to our Nation. A native of Redlands, California, Rear Admiral Lengerich received his commission in 1971 through a Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps scholarship at the University of Colorado, and has since served with great distinction both as a Surface Warfare Officer and an Engineering Duty Officer.

Rear Admiral Lengerich's impressive career has included sea duty aboard USS *GURKE* (DD 783) and USS *BADGER* (FF 1071), and on the afloat staffs of Commander U.S. Seventh Fleet, Commander Destroyer Squadron Thirteen, Commander Carrier Group Two and Commander Cruiser Destroyer Group Twelve. During these tours, he qualified as a Surface Warfare Officer and was designated as "Qualified for Command at Sea." He also served as Communications Operations Officer for the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean on the staff of the Commander in Chief, U.S. Naval Forces Europe in London.

Following his selection as an Engineering Duty Officer in 1984, Rear Admiral Lengerich served as the Platform Integration Officer for the Joint Tactical Information Distribution System on the staff of the Naval Electronic Systems Engineering Command, Washington, DC. His next assignment included duties as Project Officer for the Command and Control Processor and Director of Force Systems Engineering within the Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command (SPAWAR). He later served as the Division Director for Afloat Mission Planning Systems within the Command and Control Program Office on the staff of the Program Executive Officer for Cruise Missile and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles. An exceptional leader, he has commanded the Naval Electronic Systems Engineering Center, Charleston, South Carolina, and "commissioned" the Naval Command, Control and Ocean Surveillance Center, In-Service Engineering, East Coast Division, also in Charleston. He subsequently commanded the Naval Command, Control and Ocean Surveillance Center, San Diego, California, with additional duty as Corporate Operations Officers and Corporate Information Office for SPAWAR.

In 1998, Rear Admiral Lengerich was nominated by the President and confirmed by the Senate for the rank of Rear Admiral (lower half). His initial flag assignments included Director of Installations and Logistics for SPAWAR, and next, on the staff of the Chief of Naval Operations as Director of Industrial Capability, Maintenance Policy and Acquisition Logistics, and as Deputy Director of the Fleet Readiness Division. He was nominated and confirmed for the two-star rank of Rear Admiral in 2001.

Rear Admiral Lengerich assumed his current duties as Vice Commander, Naval Sea Systems Command in August 2002, effectively meeting the spectrum of demanding challenges in the daily operation of a command comprising nearly 50,000 employees and a \$20 billion annual budget. His efforts have been instrumental in creating the foundation for an integrated organization with a single corporate focus that specifically aligned NAVSEA's mission in support of the Chief of Naval Operations, Secretary of the Navy, and Secretary of Defense initiatives. His visionary

leadership and practical day-to-day approach during a period of unprecedented institutional transformation, has substantially and materially guided the execution of extremely complex acquisition, fleet maintenance and modernization programs to fulfill the needs of the Fleet today and the Navy of tomorrow.

Rear Admiral Lengerich has been indispensable in bringing the leading edges of technical thinking and management skills together to meet myriad Navy needs. A champion of sound fiscal methods, Rear Admiral Lengerich chaired a command review of major acquisition programs to identify and address shortfalls, and provided recommendations to reduce testing and evaluation costs, which were incorporated in the Department's investment process. Organizationally, he has fostered the improved communications and enhanced teamwork needed to produce desired "bottom line" results within the command and across the Navy. His vision led to the merger of the NAVSEA Warfare Centers into a single business unit, enabling process commonality between the NAVSEA Warfare Centers and Divisions, and the designation of Product Area Directors to ensure each Warfare Center customer received the best and most efficient combination of talent, facilities, and cost. Notably, Rear Admiral Lengerich chaired the Systems Command Integration Board to address the range of issues vital to the delivery of effective war fighting systems, and, has also chaired the Functional Naval Capabilities—Total Ownership Cost Integrated Process Team for the past six years, and led efforts which have yielded over \$3 billion a year in ship, aircraft and ground vehicle maintenance cost avoidance.

Rear Admiral Lengerich has devoted significant energies to the command's civilian and military personnel. He has shaped the command's "roll out strategy" for transition to the National Security Personnel System and he developed the metrics to guide the command's Human Capital Strategy. Within the Navy's Engineering Duty Officer (EDO) Community he spearheaded efforts to pro-actively manage the community strategy in meeting Navy dynamic requirements. With the same focus on the future, he has been a personal mentor to nearly one-third of the entire Navy ED community and has worked with the Naval Postgraduate School to create a new accredited Master of Science in Systems Engineering curriculum and to create an advisory board on course curriculum critical to NAVSEA and SPAWAR.

For the past two months, Rear Admiral Lengerich has served superbly as NAVSEA's Acting Commander, answering the call of duty as he has done many times before. He is an individual of uncommon character and total professional whose presence will be sincerely missed but whose many contributions will certainly endure. I am proud, Mr. Speaker, to thank him for his honorable service in the United States Navy, to commend him for a job "well done," and to wish him "fair winds and following seas" as he closes his distinguished military career.